

UNITED NATIONS  NATIONS UNIES

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REFERENCE: 20201207UnNvStatesParties

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations presents its compliments to Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations, Permanent Observers of non-Member States to the United Nations, and Representatives of other States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and has the honour to refer to the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The Office of Legal Affairs is pleased to transmit attached herewith a letter dated 7 December 2020 from the President of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties addressed to Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations, Permanent Observers of non-Member States to the United Nations, and Representatives of other States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning the draft organization of work.

The Office of Legal Affairs is also pleased to attach herewith an annex concerning logistical and procedural aspects for the resumed plenary meeting of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties.

The Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Permanent Representatives of Member States to the United Nations, Permanent Observers of non-Member States to the United Nations, and Representatives of other States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea the assurances of its highest consideration.



7 December 2020

REFERENCE: 20201207UnNvÉtatsParties

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques de l'Organisation des Nations Unies présente ses compliments à toutes les missions permanentes des États Membres auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, aux missions permanentes d'observation auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et aux États parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer, et a l'honneur de se référer à la trentième Réunion des États parties à la Convention.

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques a le plaisir de transmettre ci-joint une lettre datée du 7 décembre 2020, qui est adressée aux représentants permanents des États Membres auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, aux observateurs permanents d'États non-membres auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et aux représentants d'autres États parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer par le Président de la trentième Réunion des États parties concernant le projet d'organisation des travaux.

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques a également le plaisir de joindre une annexe concernant les aspects logistiques et procéduraux de la reprise de la séance plénière de la trentième Réunion des États parties.

Le Bureau des affaires juridiques de l'Organisation des Nations Unies saisit cette occasion pour renouveler à toutes les missions permanentes des États Membres auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, aux missions permanentes d'observation auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies et aux États parties à la Convention des Nations Unies sur le droit de la mer les assurances de sa très haute considération.



Le 7 décembre 2020

7 December 2020

Excellencies,

Annex 1

The Open-ended Working Group on Financial and Budgetary Matters held two rounds of virtual consultations on 19 and 23 November 2020, complemented by an exchange of written statements.

In advance of the first round of consultations, the Registrar of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Ms. Ximena Hinrichs, circulated a statement introducing the

contained in document

SPLOS/30/5 and its addendum SPLOS/30/5/Add.1.

The Registrar noted that the budget proposals regarding recurrent expenditures followed an overall zero-growth approach compared with an equivalent value in euros as of the budget for 2019–2020. She further noted that parameters beyond the control of the Tribunal, had resulted in increases, which had to be taken into consideration. These parameters included a rise in daily subsistence allowance for Hamburg, revisions to the post adjustment multiplier for Hamburg, higher estimates relating to staff costs based on standard costs, and the rise in the exchange rate of the US dollar to the euro.

With regard to non-recurrent expenditure, the Registrar had also noted that the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) would be in place as of 1 January 2021 so no provision for costs was contemplated in the 2021-22 budget. Further, the Registrar underlined that the proposed budget for case-related costs was , , higher than the appropri

compelling reasons, and that it was anticipated that the Tribunal would return to its normal arrangements as soon as the COVID-19 situation so permitted.

Taking into account these consultations and exchanges, I circulated a letter to States Parties on 24 November which included the

proposing the adoption of the total draft budget proposals of the Tribunal for the Law of the Sea for 2021-2022 in the amount outlined in annex I of document SPLOS/30/5, with the modifications described in document SPLOS/30/5/Add.1 and

Annex 2

This comprehensive report provides an overview of the work conducted by the Open-ended Working Group on the Conditions of Service of the Members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf since the twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties.

The twenty-ninth Meeting of States Parties took a number of initiatives regarding the conditions of service of the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, in particular: (i) requesting the Secretariat to conduct a comprehensive survey among Commission members and nominating States with respect to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission and the costs currently defrayed by nominating States; (ii) proposing an amendment to the terms of reference of the voluntary trust fund to allow for reimbursement to members of the Commission from developing States for the costs of joining the UN Headquarters medical insurance scheme; and (iii) requesting the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive study setting out possible options to address the working conditions of the Commission, including its funding, for discussion at the thirtieth Meeting (see SPLOS/29/9, para. 85).

On 18 November 2019, one of the Co-

consensus. He cautioned that it would not be an efficient use of resources to request the Secretariat to carry out further work in respect of options that did not appear to be viable. As to the types of expenses related to participation that were under consideration, the Co-Coordinator noted that this question

application of this option seemed difficult for those States that had already received recommendations. There was general agreement that a follow-up study by the Secretariat providing factual and updated information regarding the estimated costs of the various options would assist the Meeting to take a decision on this matter.

One of the Co-Coordiators expressed appreciation to delegations for their comments and views. He agreed that all options, including the use of the Voluntary Trust Fund as emphasized by one delegation, would benefit from further consideration. The Co-Coordinator reminded delegations that the issue of the conditions of service of the members of the Commission had been under consideration for more than ten years and that the Trust Fund did not provide a long-term and sustainable solution because it was and is chronically under-funded. He appealed to delegations for a creative solution to address this issue and agreed that, while some funding options could have legal implications, a follow-up study by the Secretariat would be beneficial if it focused on factual assessments of the estimated costs, on the one hand, and options how those costs can be covered on the other hand. The decision on how those costs were to be funded should ultimately be reserved for the Meeting of States Parties.

The Co-Coordinator indicated that, following the consultations, a revised draft decision would be circulated for consideration by delegations, with any written comments to be conveyed to the Secretariat by 4 p.m. on 1 December 2020. Following this circulation, comments were received from one delegation. Due to the strict timeframe under which we operated, additional consultations with delegations on the revised draft decision could not be held in time for a further revised draft decision to be put forward for the consideration of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties.

As Co-Coordiators we, therefore, propose that the Working Group continue to consider issues relating to the conditions of service of the members of the Commission intersessionally and report to the thirty-first Meeting of States Parties.

**Logistical and procedural aspects for the resumed plenary of the thirtieth Meeting
of States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea**

United Nations Headquarters

9 December 2020

General Assembly Hall (10 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Conference Rooms 1, 2 and 3 (3 p.m. to 6 p.m.)

I. Introduction

1. This note sets out the logistical and procedural aspects for the resumed in-person plenary meetings of the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties to the United Nations

III. Procedural aspects of the Meeting

Credentials

23. States Parties are requested to submit additional credentials if information concerning the appointment of representatives participating in the thirtieth Meeting has changed since the submission of credentials for the in-person meetings held on 24-26 August 2020. In addition, States Parties that are yet to submit original credentials are kindly requested to bring them to the conference room on the day of the plenary meeting. Submission of additional and original credentials will be at the General Assembly Hall East Documents Counter. States Parties are requested not to mail original credentials documents.

Observers

24. Observer States are invited to transmit to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) the name of the representative who will form their delegation

Documents

30. The agenda of the Meeting is contained in document SPLOS/30/1, available through the Official Document System of the United Nations (<http://documents.un.org>).
31. The documents referred to in the agenda are available at www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/thirtiethmeetingstatesparties.htm. All documents concerning past Meetings can be found at www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/meeting_states_parties.htm.

IV. Meeting services and other arrangements

United Nations Journal/Webcast

32. The United Nations Webcast Unit will provide live and on-demand streaming coverage of the in-person meetings. The coverage will also be available on the United Nations Web TV website (<http://webtv.un.org>). The Journal announcements will include a link to the webcast. Queries about webcast coverage should be directed to the United Nations Webcast Unit (telephone: 212 963 6733; email: damianou@un.org and justin@un.org).

Interpretation and written statements

33. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided.
34. For interpretation purposes, delegations are requested to submit their statements by email to [eStatements \(estatements@un.org\)](mailto:estatements@un.org) in both PDF and Word at least two hours before they are scheduled to speak, clearly indicating the name of the meeting, speaker, delegation, agenda item and date. For circulation purposes cc: doalos@un.org to ensure that the statements are made available through the dedicated SharePoint site for the thirtieth Meeting of States Parties available at www.un.org/Depts/los/meeting_states_parties/thirtiethmeetingstatesparties.htm.

Security

35. Questions or concerns should be directed to Kevin O Hanlon, Chief, United Nations Headquarters, Security and Safety Service, by contacting the Security Event Planning Unit (Captain Charlene Wilson, telephone: +1 212 963 2867).

Secretariat staff

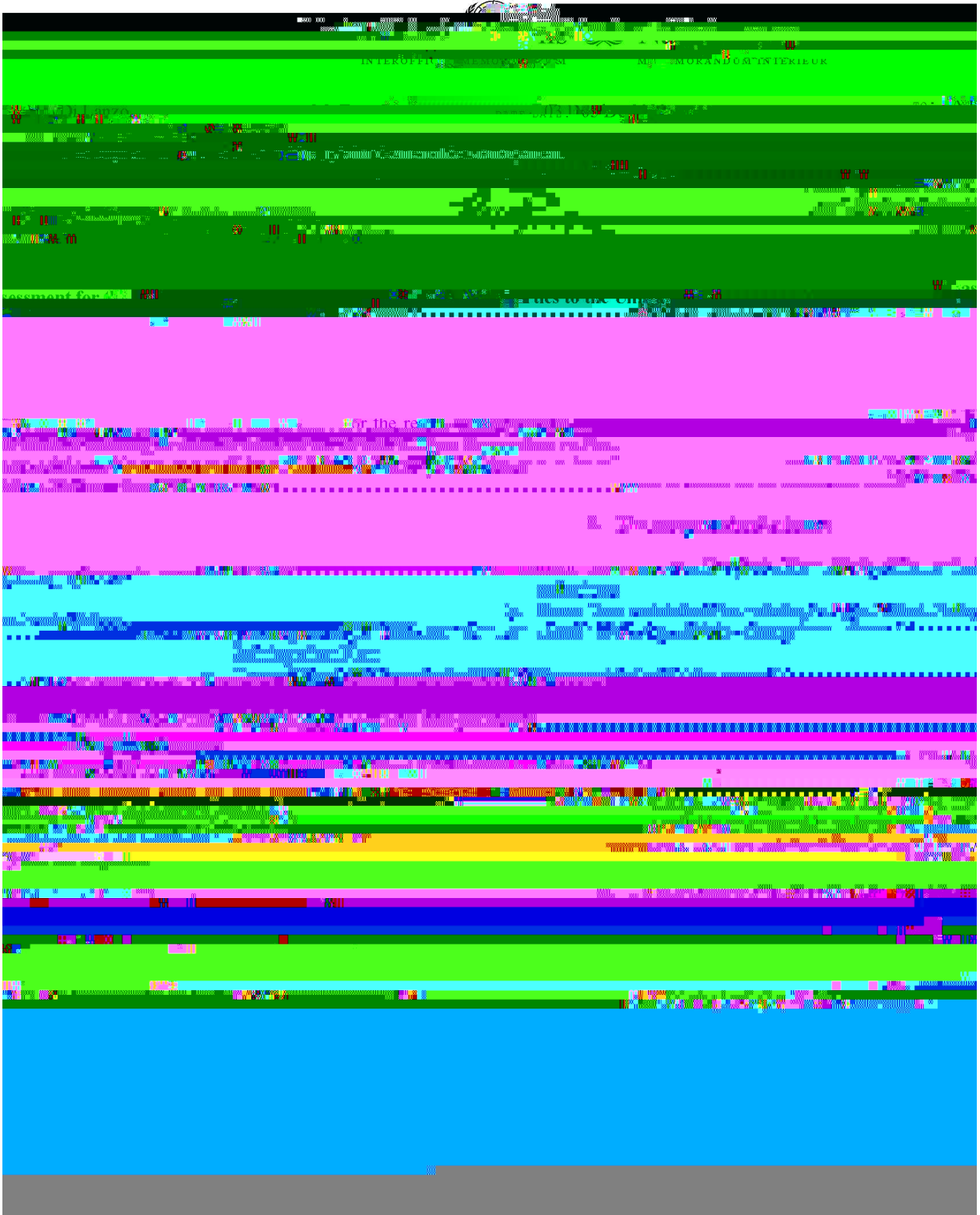
36. A limited number of Secretariat staff supporting the meeting will be seated at their designated desks in the General Assembly Hall and in CR. 1+2+3. All staff will wear face coverings. Communication between the Secretariat staff and the Secretary at the podium will be through phone calls and electronic means.
37. Distribution of all documents will be by electronic means. No hard copy documents

will be provided.

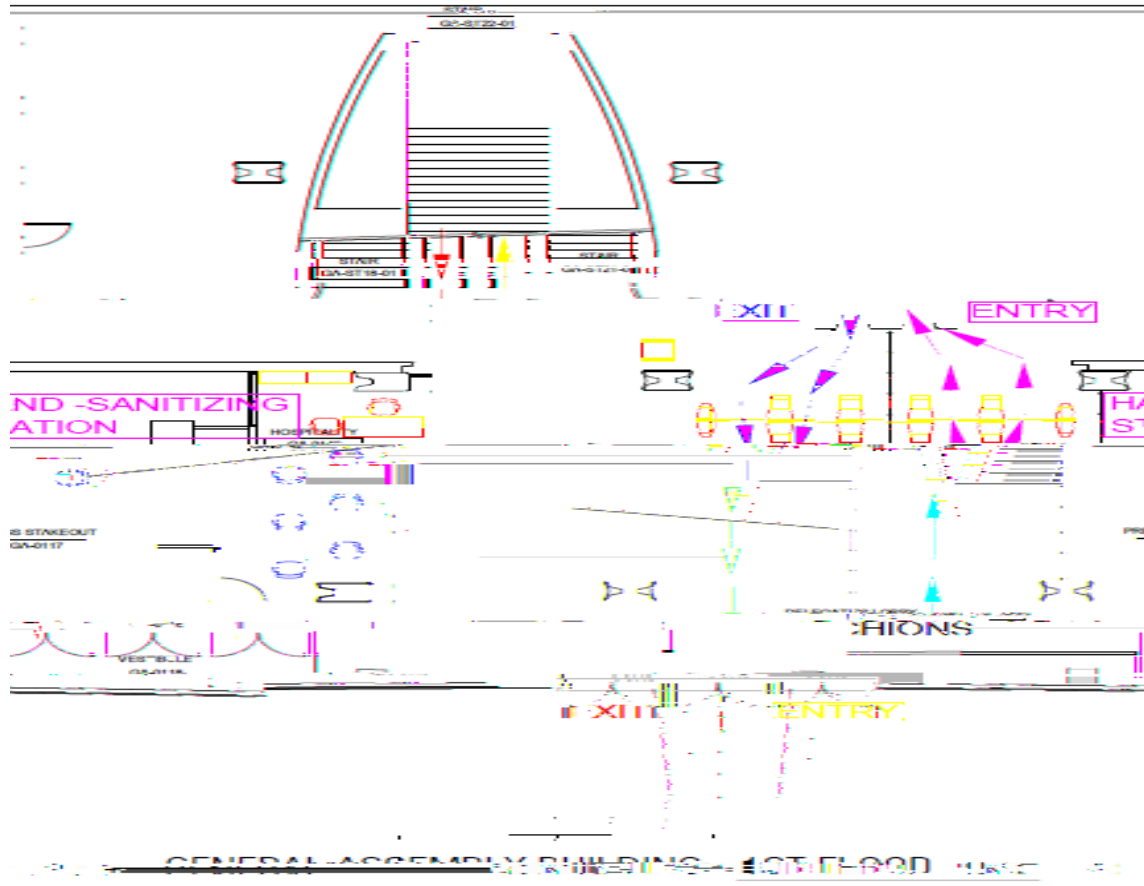
V. Badges

38. Delegates will be urged to check that their badges have not expired. If they have expired, delegates are encouraged to renew them as soon as possible to avoid crowding and chokepoints. Details on obtaining a pass are [available here](#).

Annex I



Annex II



Annex III

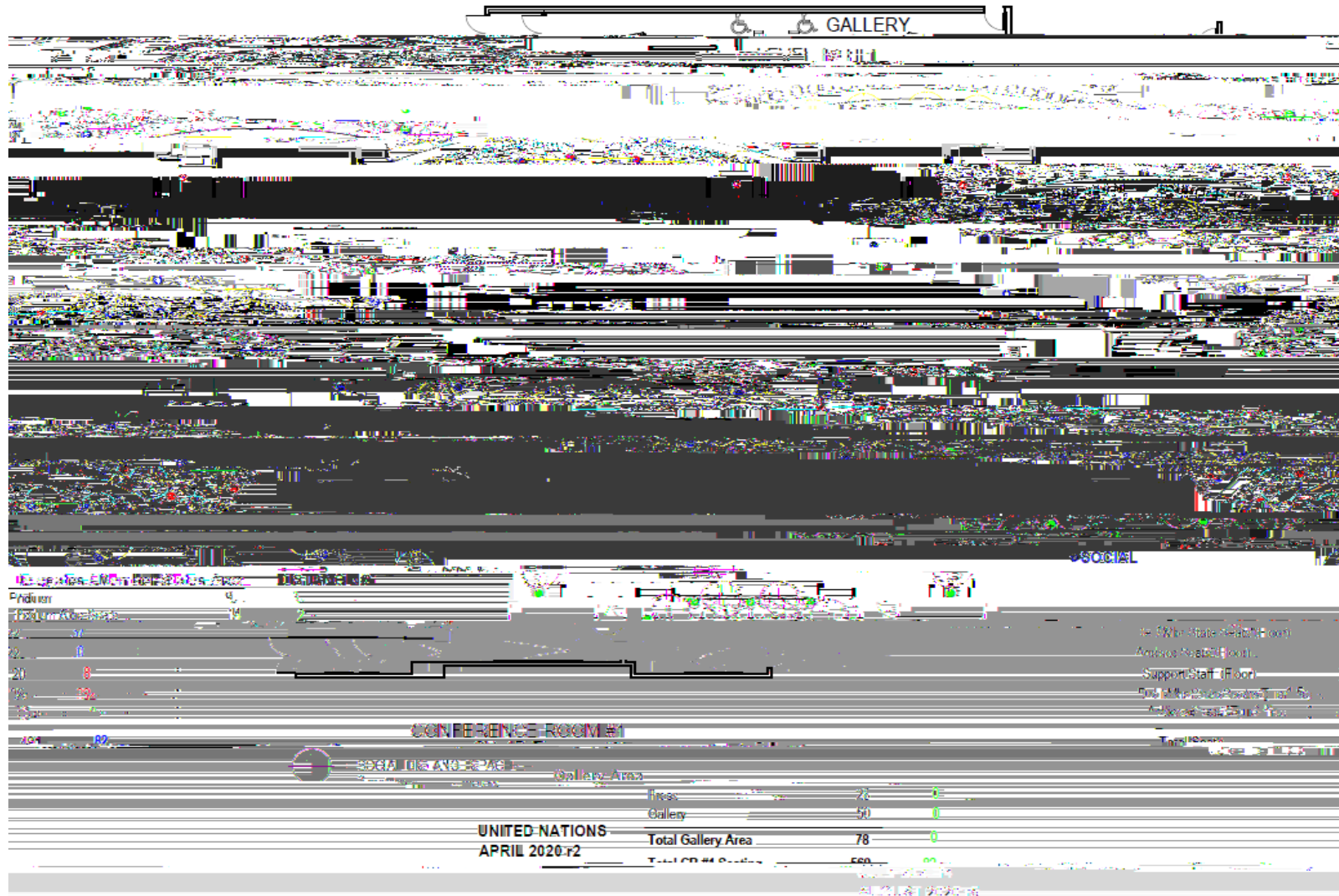
Time slots for arrival

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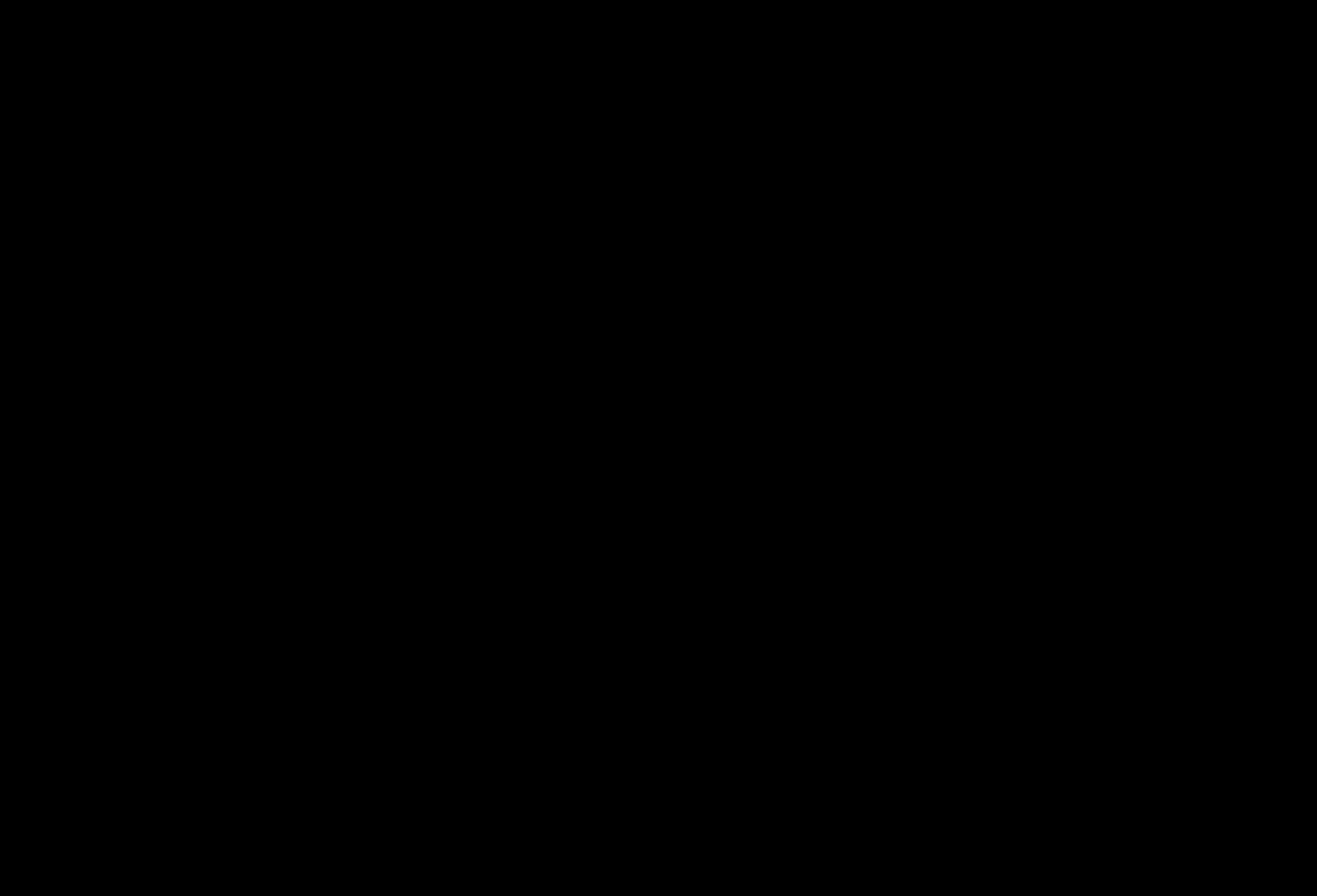
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30	China	E
31	Comoros	A
32	Congo	B
33	Cook Islands	C
34	Costa Rica	D

67	Hungary	B
68	Iceland	C
69	India	D
70	Indonesia	E
71	Iraq	A
72	Ireland	B
73	Italy	C
74	Jamaica	D

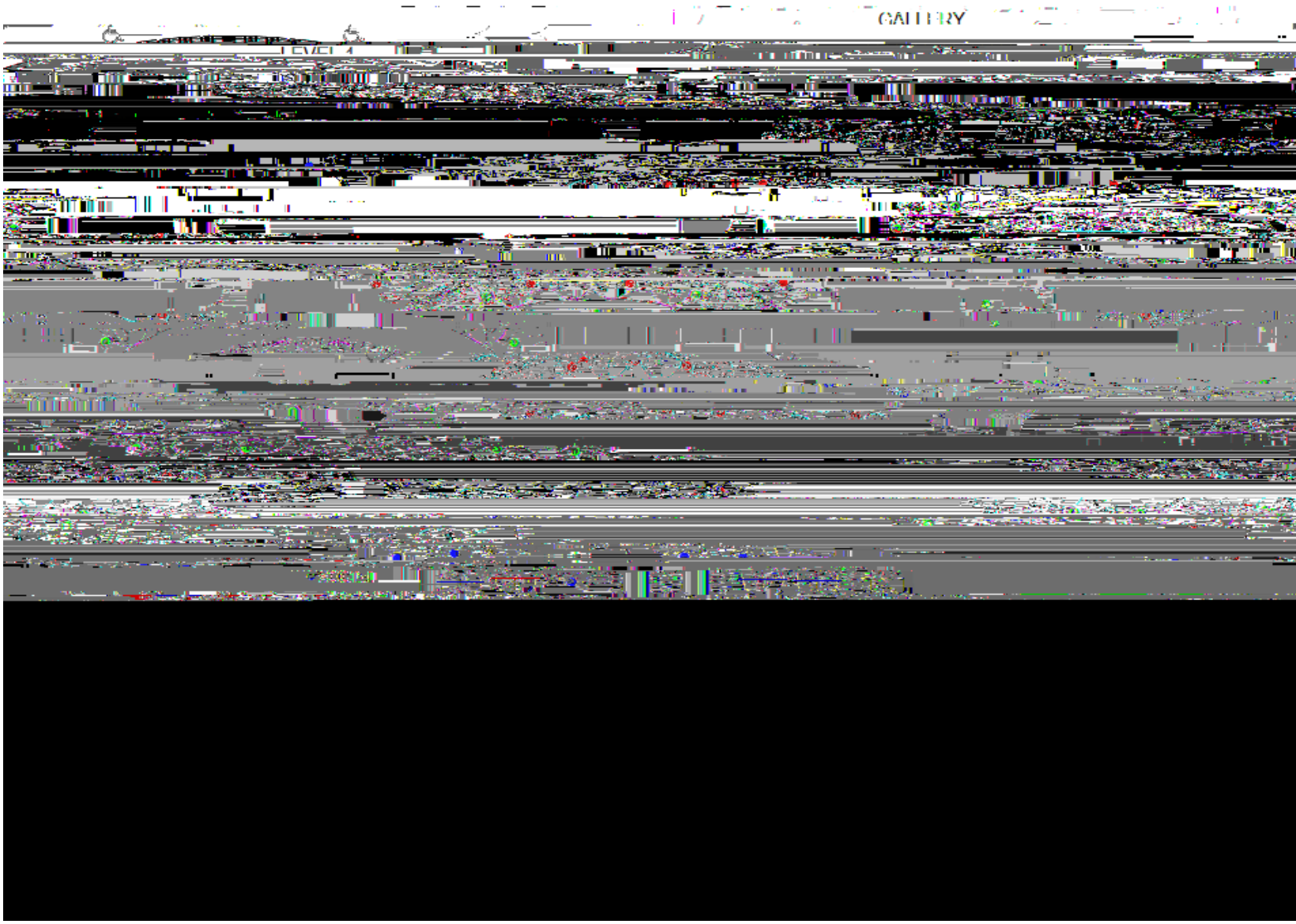
Conference Room 1



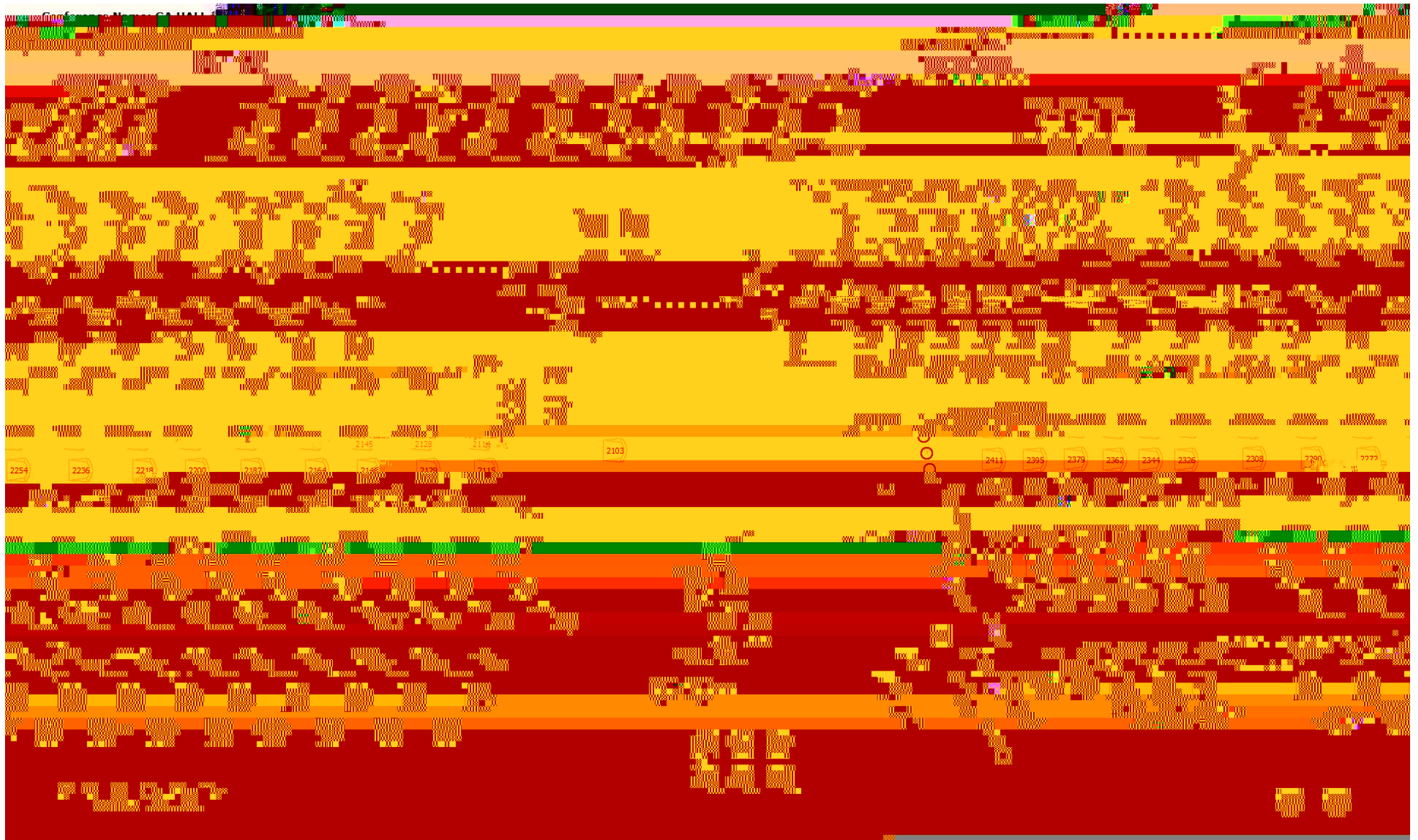
Conference Room 2

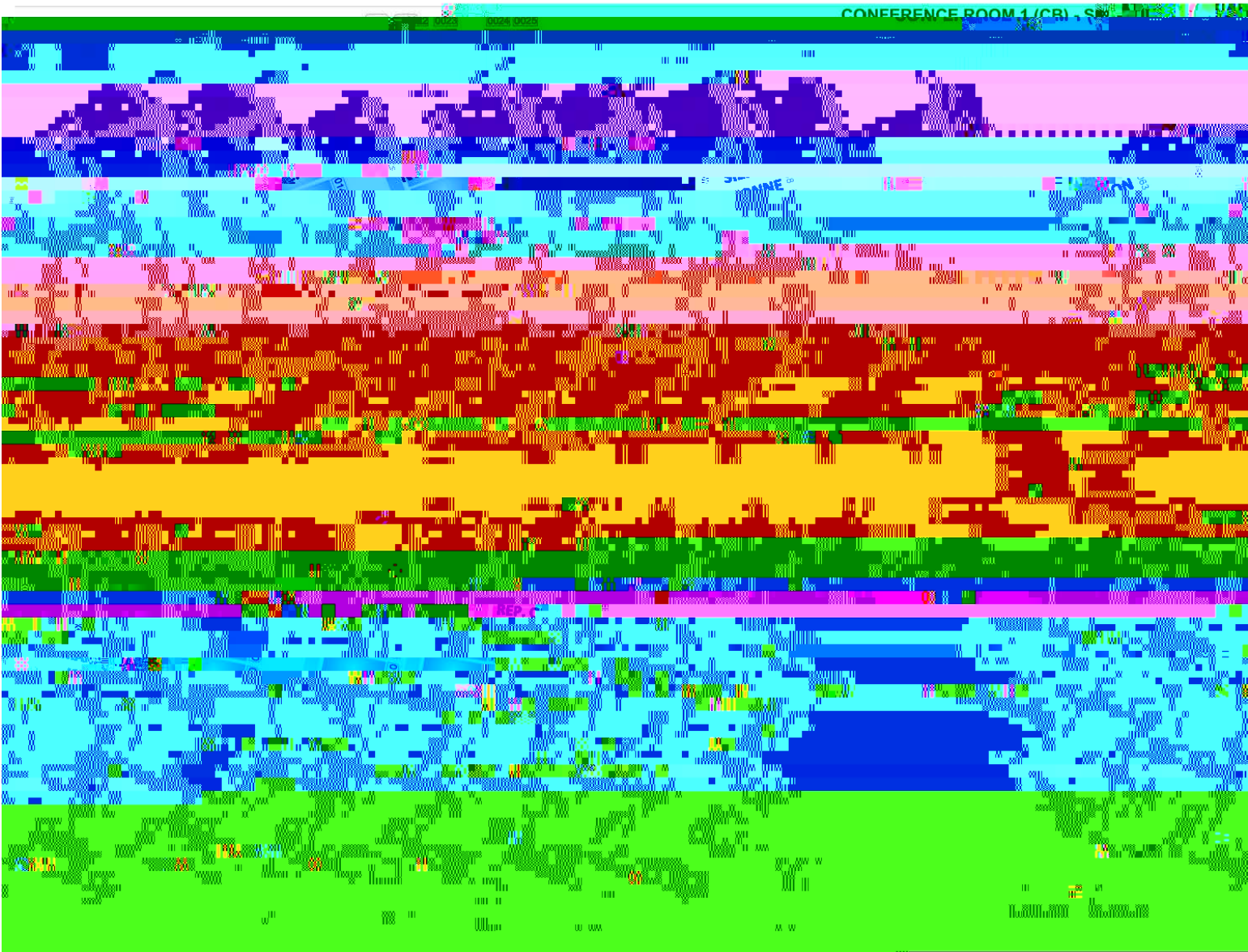


Conference Room 3











Conference Room 3

CONFERENCE ROOM 3

